

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 106498
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /015 R

66011

DRAFTED BY IO/UNA:BJSHARP

APPROVED BY IO/UNA:JFTEFFT

-----061245 262215Z /73

R 261915Z APR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 106498

FOR AMB YOUNG FM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT KINGSTON 3562 ACTION STATE INFO BRIDGETOWN
GEORGETOWN NASSAU PORT OF SPAIN HAVANA MAY 25.

QUOTE O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 3562

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: JM, CU, PGOV

SUBJECT: MANLEY ON CUBANS IN AFRICA

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH STILL A STAUNCH DEFENDER OF CASTRO
AND CUBA'S ROLE IN ANGOLA AND HORN OF AFRICA, MANLEY IS
DOING A BIT OF WAVERING ON THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF CUBAN
TROOPS IN ETHIOPIA. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING MEETING WITH PM MANLEY LAST WEEK (ON OCCASION
OF INTRODUCING NEW DCM ROY HAVERKAMP), MANLEY POINTED TO TWO
AUTOGRAPHED PICTURES ON HIS WALL, HANGING SIDE BY SIDE.
ONE WAS OF CASTRO AND THE OTHER PRESIDENT CARTER. HE CALLED
THEM HIS "TWO VERY GOOD FRIENDS". IT GAVE ME THE OPPORTUNITY
TO TALK ABOUT CUBANS IN AFRICA. MANLEY SAID HE WANTED TO
MAKE IT "QUITE CLEAR" THAT HE ADMIRES CASTRO AS A GREAT
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LEADER AND CONSIDERS HIM A CLOSE PERSONAL FRIEND AND A FRIEND
OF JAMAICA. CUBA HAS NEVER INTERFERED IN JAMAICA'S
AFFAIRS (COMMENT: IMPLICATION THAT "ON THE OTHER
HAND" USG TRIED TO DESTABLIZE JAMAICA IN 1976).
DESPITE USG CLAIM THAT HIS (MALEY)'S) FACTS ARE WRONG
REGARDING THE SITUATION, CUBA CAME TO ASSISTANCE OF
LEGITIMATE GOVT. OF ANGOLA BY INVITATION TO RESIST

INVASION. CUBA'S ROLE IN HORN OF AFRICA IS SEEN IN SAME LIGHT. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION REGARDING CONTINUED PRESENCE OF CUBAN TROOPS IN ETHIOPIA AND HOW HE COULD EXPLAIN THREAT OF INVOLVEMENT IN ERITREA, HE SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO ADMIT THAT IT DOES NOT EXACTLY SQUARE WITH HIS RATIONALE FOR THE LEGITIMACY OF CUBAN PRESENCE IN AFRICA. HE SAID HE WAS "WAVERING SOMEWHAT" AND HAS TO SORT IT OUT IN HIS OWN MIND.

3. ON THE NEXT DAY, DURING A MEETING WITH NINE MEMBERS OF THE VISITING AMERICAN COUNCIL OF YOUNG POLITICAL LEADERS (ACYPL), AND IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION FROM ONE OF THE GROUP, MANLEY MADE A VIGOROUS DEFENSE OF JAMAICA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH CUBA, DURING WHICH HE CLAIMED THAT FOR YEARS THE USG TRIED TO DISCOURAGE CARIBBEAN RELATIONS WITH ALL COMMUNIST NATIONS AND THEREBY DRAW THEM INTO THE US-USSR COLD WAR. HE SAID JAMAICA'S FOREIGN POLICY WAS ONE ON NON-ALIGNMENT AND NON-INVOLVEMENT IN THE DISPUTES OF OTHER NATIONS. HE HAD NO QUARREL WITH THE USSR OR WITH CUBA. SINCE THE SOVIET PEOPLE AND THE CUBAN PEOPLE "LIKED THEIR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT", IT IS ALRIGHT WITH HIM. HE AND JAMAICANS PREFER A "SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC" FORM OF GOVERNMENT AND THAT IS ALRIGHT WITH CUBA AND THE USSR. JAMAICA WILL NEVER GO COMMUNIST AND THAT, TOO, IS ALRIGHT WITH CUBA
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AND THE USSR.

4. MANLEY FURTHER ADDED THAT THE USG GETS SCHIZOPHRENIC WHEN CUBA SENDS "TECHNICIANS" TO AFRICA. AFRICANS WELCOME ALL THE HELP THEY CAN GET. CUBANS ARE SUPPLYING NEEDED EXPERTS IN AFRICA, JUST AS THEY ARE IN JAMAICA. THEY BUILD SCHOOLS, PROVIDE MEDICAL PERSONNEL, ETC. HE SAID HE SAW NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CUBAN TECHNICIANS AND OUR PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS. WITH REGARD TO CUBAN TROOPS IN AFRICA, MANLEY SAID THEY WERE INVITED BY LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENTS TO HELP REPEL INVASION. HE SAW NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT.

5. WHEN ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE ACYPL ASKED MANLEY WHETHER HE CONDONED CONTINUED CUBAN TROOP PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA AND MENTIONED THE ERITREAN SITUATION, MANLEY ABRUPTLY ENDED THE CONVERSATION ON THE SUBJECT BY SAYING THAT THE FOREIGN RELATIONS OF JAMAICA ARE A CABINET DECISION AND HE COULD NOT RESPOND TO THIS LAST QUESTION BECAUSE THE CABINET HAD NOT YET CONSIDERED THIS LATEST DEVELOPMENT.

6. COMMENT: THE REMARKS MADE TO ME AND TO THE
ACYPL GROUP REGARDING CONTINUED PRESENCE OF
CUBAN TROOPS IN ETHIOPIA IS UNCHARACTERISTIC OF
MANLEY. UNTIL NOW HE HAS NEVER FELT CONSTRAINED
BY THE CABINET OR ANYONE ELSE IN SPEAKING OUT ON
FOREIGN RELATIONS, ESPECIALLY ON CUBA. THE
SIGNIFICANCE OF HIS REMARKS IS THAT IT IS
ANOTHER SIGN THAT THE MODERATES IN THE PNP HAVE
HIM UNDER SOME RESTRAINT, AND THAT IT IS AN
INDICATION OF A POSSIBLE SPLIT IN THE CABINET ON
CUBA. THIS THIS LATTER WILL BE WATCHED CLOSELY. IRVING
UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE106498
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BJSHARP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780179-0189
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780414/aaaaalbm.tel
Line Count: 127
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 96ae2fa7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2839606
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MANLEY ON CUBANS IN AFRICA
TAGS: PGOV, MOPS, JM, CU, XA
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/96ae2fa7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014